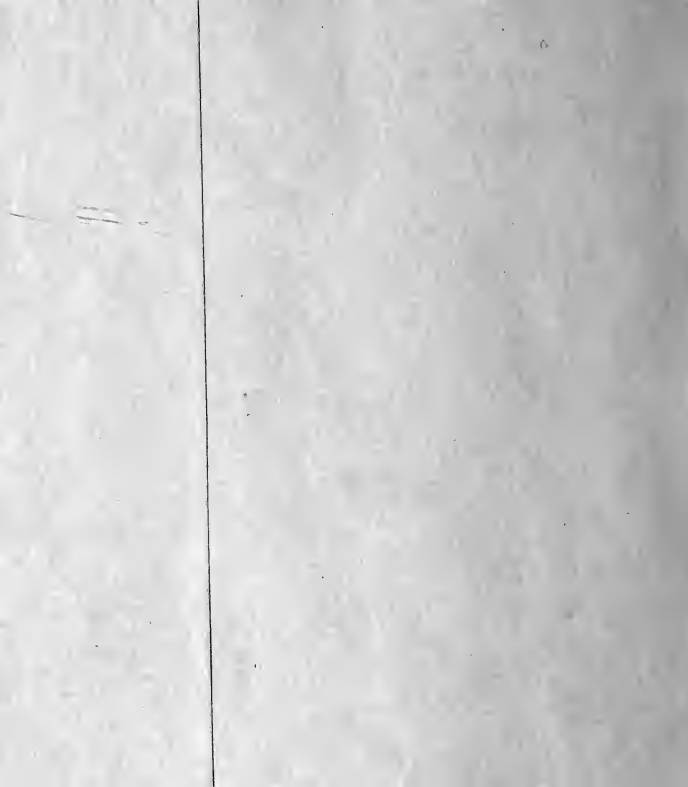


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Robertdean Buchanan

June 18<sup>th</sup> / 1889.

Society of the Friendly sons of St. Patrick of  
" Philadelphia ... 1771

118<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

OF PHILADELPHIA

FOR THE

RELIEF OF EMIGRANTS FROM IRELAND

1889

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Stephen Moylan's name is the first on the list, and he was the first president of the society. He was again president in 1796. During the War of the Revolution he distinguished himself, was much in the confidence of General Washington, and rose to the rank of brigadier-general.

He was one of the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati. Another of the original members was Mathew Mease, a native of Strabane, County Tyrone, a man of spirit, who deserted his counting-room for the perils and excitements of war life. He was purser on the "Bon Homme Richard," and, during the desperate encounter with the "Serapis," commanded the quarter-deck guns, which he fought gallantly until a wound in the head necessitated his removal to the cockpit. Another brother of the gallant purser—and, like him, one of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick—who was equally possessed of the spirit of bravery, was John Mease. He was a shipping merchant, and an early and ardent friend of the cause of independence. He was a member of the First City Troop, and, on the ever-memorable night of December 25th, 1776, he made one of the twenty-four of that corps who crossed the Delaware with General Washington, and assisted at the capture of the Hessians. He was one of the five detailed to keep alive

the fires along the line of the American encampment at Trenton to deceive the enemy, while the main body marched by a private way to attack the British rear-guard at Princeton. He served with the troop until the end of the war, and ended his days in Philadelphia as an admiralty surveyor of the port. He was the only man who continued, in latter times, to wear the old three-cornered hat of the Revolution, and he was everywhere familiarly known as "the last of the cocked hats."

Thomas Fitzsimmons was a native of Ireland and rose to great distinction as a merchant of Philadelphia, both before and during the Revolution. He commanded a volunteer company, and was engaged in active service during the war. He was for many years a member of the State Legislature of Pennsylvania, and represented Philadelphia in Congress with honor. He was for a long time Director of the Bank of North America, and was President of the Insurance Company of North America up to the time of his death. He was the

adviser and counselor of Franklin, Hamilton and Jefferson, and the coadjutor of Robert Morris. His name is attached to the Constitution of the United States.

Space forbids continuing this catalogue at length; brief mention must suffice. John Maxwell Nesbitt, who was the second President of the Society, was a sterling patriot, and was the right-hand man of Robert Morris, during the Revolutionary War, in the supply of necessities for the army and in the support of the public credit. He was President of the Society for nearly fifteen years. General John Shea was another founder. He was Collector of the Port of Philadelphia under Jefferson, and afterward a general in the militia, colonel of volunteers, and treasurer of the city. Colonel John Nixon was a native of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and a most efficient friend of America during the Revolutionary period. He was for some time an alderman of Philadelphia, and had the honor of first reading the Declaration of Independence to the people



assembled in Independence Square. John Dunlap, another of the founders, was born in Strabane, County Tyrone, in 1746. On coming to this country, he became a printer, and, in November, 1771, he issued in Philadelphia the first number of the "Pennsylvania Packet or General Advertiser." From September, 1777 to July, 1778, while the British were in possession of Philadelphia, his paper was issued from Lancaster. After 1783, it was issued daily. Mr. Dunlap was printer to the Convention which met in Philadelphia before the Revolution, and also to Congress, and, as such, first printed the Declaration.

Side by side with the names of Dunlap and the others we have referred to are many more of men of distinction—the leader of all being George Washington, who was adopted into the Society, December, 1781. Mad Anthony Wayne was another, Robert Morris another. Others were: Colonel Walter Stewart, John, Randle and William Mitchell, Thomas Barclay, John Boyle, George Fullerton, George

Davis, Samuel Caldwell, the first clerk of the U. S. District Court at Philadelphia, Benjamin Fuller, the eccentric and eminent ship-broker, Tench Francis, the first cashier of the Bank of North America, and long the agent of the Penn family, Colonel Ephraim Blaine, grandfather of James G. Blaine, Colonel Turbutt Francis, Samuel Meredith, and Andrew Caldwell.



## THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY.

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Some time after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, several members of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, in connection with other benevolent persons, formed the design of creating a society whose object should not be solely convivial, but which, whilst it would tend to keep up and cherish that friendly and social intercourse which appears more natural to the Irish than to the people of any other nation, would at the same time give exercise to other traits not less prominent in their character—generosity, charity, and protection to the distressed. Of the immense number of the surplus population of Ireland whom oppression and constant increase cast every year on the shores of America, many on their arrival are necessarily in destitute circumstances. A little assistance to these on their landing, and for some time afterwards,

might enable them, by industry and good conduct, to become prosperous men and useful citizens. To carry these objects into effect was the original design in establishing the Hibernian Society, and it has been uniformly adhered to down to the present time.

The original articles of the Constitution of the Hibernian Society were adopted by the members on March 22d, 1790. Pursuant to the third clause of the Constitution, the Society met at the State House in Philadelphia on Monday, April 5th, and chose their officers as follows, viz : President, Hon. Thos. McKean, Esq., LL. D., Chief Justice of the State of Pennsylvania ; Vice-President, General Walter Stewart ; Secretary, Mr. Matthew Carey ; Treasurer, Mr. John Taylor ; Counsellors, Charles Heatly, Esq., Jaspar Moylan, Esq ; Physicians, Dr. James Cunningham, Dr. John Carson. Acting Committee : Messrs. John Shea, Paul Cox, John Leamy, Patrick Moore, Thomas Lea, Alexander Nesbitt, Thomas Proctor, Robert Rainey, Charles Risk, John Brown,

John Strawbridge, Richard Adams. Committee of Correspondence : Blair McClenachan, Esq., John Maxwell Nesbitt, Esq., Mr. Hugh Boyle.

IN 1889.

With uniform good results the Hibernian Society has worked until the present time. It embraces among its members not only Irish, but those of other nations who desire to enjoy with them the pleasures of its convivial meetings, or extend the hand of kindness and protection to the needy and friendless emigrant from Ireland. It has in its investment fund at the present day about \$70,000. The interest of this sum is distributed entirely in charity. The funds are derived from admission fees and donations and bequests. The wide-reaching charitable work of the society would fill an interesting chapter in the "annals of the poor." It would tell of distress relieved, and of the healing of wounds inflicted by misfortune and oppression; but the maxim: "Let not thy left hand know what thy right doeth" is applicable

to societies as well as individuals. Besides, it has ever been a characteristic of this society to shun ostentatious publicity; and, after all, the most pleasing earthly memorials of benevolence are those secretly inscribed on the grateful hearts of the recipients of its bounty. Moreover, there is the best assurance that the minutest acts of genuine charity are entered in another register, which neither time nor accident can ever erase or destroy.

There are four regular meetings of the society every year. On that held the 17th of March, the officers and standing committees are elected previous to the anniversary dinner.

With the exception of the Acting Committee the duties of the officers and committees are light and pleasant: for, where the objects of an association are charity and social enjoyment only, questions likely to disturb harmony or embarrass business but rarely arise—especially when, as in the case with the Hibernian Society, the funds of the institution are in a prosperous condition.

No expenses, except such as are incident to the regular business meetings, are paid out of the funds of the society. No contribution but the initiation fee is ever required from the members. If a member choose to join his fellows at the anniversary dinner, or at an extra quarterly meeting in the winter months, he does so at his own proper expense.

Usage strictly prohibits any allusion to *politics* or *sectarianism*, either at the business or social meetings of the members. Hence it may be fearlessly asserted that these meetings have, for eighty years, been more exempt from exciting and unpleasant discussions than those of any other society composed of such dissimilar elements.

## PRESENT OFFICERS.

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### PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM McALEER.

### VICE-PRESIDENT.

COL. THOMAS J. GRIMESON.

### SECRETARY.

THOMAS D. FERGUSON.

### TREASURER.

SIMON J. MARTIN.

### COUNSELLORS.

WILLIAM GORMAN.

HENRY PHILLIPS COLEMAN.

### PHYSICIANS.

JOSEPH MARTIN, M. D.

MICHAEL O'HARA, M. D.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

COL. B. K. JAMISON.

DANIEL DONOVAN.

DAVID McMENAMIN.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

EDWARD J. HERATY.

PHILIP J. WALSH.

JOHN M. DOYLE.



## PROMINENT DECEASED MEMBERS.

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|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Gen'l George Washington. | Gen'l Andrew Jackson.      |
| Gen'l Anthony Wayne.     | Gen'l U. S. Grant.         |
| Gen'l Stephen Moylan.    | Commodore Charles Stewart. |
| Gen'l John Cadwalader.   | Thomas McKean.             |
| Gen'l Henry Knox.        | Gen'l Callender Irvine.    |
| Commodore John Barry.    | John K. Kane.              |
| Gen'l Walter Stewart.    | David Paul Brown.          |
| Gen'l William Thompson.  | John Sergeant.             |
| Gen'l William Irvine.    | Blair McClenachan.         |
| Gen'l John Shea.         | John Binns.                |
| Gen'l Edward Hand.       | John Bannister Gibson.     |
| Thomas Fitzsimmons.      | Thomas Burnsides.          |
| Dr. John Cochran.        | Gen'l Robert Patterson.    |
| Richard Bache.           | William A. Porter.         |
| John Dickinson.          | Gen'l William Acheson.     |
| George Meade.            | Peter A. Browne            |
| Col. John Nixon.         | Matthew Carey.             |
| John Maxwell Nesbitt.    | Henry C. Carey.            |
| Col. Francis Johnston.   | William Duane.             |
| Robert Morris.           | William Findlay.           |
| John Barclay.            | R. Shelton Mackenzie.      |
| Dr. Robert M. Patterson. |                            |

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